

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

COMPETITIVE PRODUCT PRICES
PRIORITY MAIL
PRIORITY MAIL CONTRACT 30

Docket No. MC2011-9

COMPETITIVE PRODUCT PRICES
PRIORITY MAIL CONTRACT 30 (MC2011-9)
NEGOTIATED SERVICE AGREEMENT

Docket No. CP2011-44

**MOTION OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
FOR TEMPORARY RELIEF**
(December 13, 2013)

In PRC Order No. 85, the Commission noted that it “stands ready to act quickly on requests for temporary relief based on extenuating circumstances” that threaten to interrupt the provision of rates to a customer as a result of the regulatory process and the statutory requirement of 39 U.S.C. § 3632(b)(3).¹ The customer whose competitive product rates were established in this docket wishes to renew its commitment to sending large volumes of Priority Mail for the next year at negotiated rates. By the terms of the contract filed in this docket, the current rates will expire on January 4, 2014.

The Postal Service and the customer have been working cooperatively to reach a new agreement, which would have avoided any interruption in the Postal Service’s ability to provide this customer access to negotiated rates. However, because of extenuating circumstances, the Postal Service and the customer were unable to reach

¹ PRC Order No. 85, Order Concerning Global Plus Negotiated Service Agreements, June 27, 2008, at 10 (Order No. 85). In relevant part, 39 U.S.C. § 3632(b)(3) requires that rates not of general applicability established for competitive products be filed with the Commission at least 15 days in advance of their effective date.

an agreement on the terms of the new contract in time for the Postal Service to file the new agreement 15 days prior to the expiration of the instant contract.

The Postal Service and the customer do not expect to make significant progress on the successor contract over the next several weeks, because of the upcoming holidays. Nevertheless, the parties expect to resume negotiations in January, and reach an agreement on a successor contract soon thereafter. Yet because of the timing of the regulatory process, there will be a window between the expiration of the existing contract in this docket and the effective date of the new contract, while the Commission completes its review. Thus, the customer now faces the prospect of an interruption in its access to negotiated rates as a result of the processes that it must participate in when it does business with the Postal Service, rather than with one of the Postal Service's competitors.

To avoid this result, the Postal Service respectfully requests that the Commission grant an extension of ninety (90) days to allow the existing contract to remain in effect until such time as the parties are able to resume negotiations, reach an agreement, and the Commission is able to complete its review of the successor contract. Therefore, the proposed extension would only last for a finite and relatively short period of time. In conclusion, for the reasons discussed above, and in consideration of the customers' business continuity, the Postal Service hereby moves for temporary relief to allow the existing contract to remain on the competitive products list for ninety additional days.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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